

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *221
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2023**

Promotion of Sports

***221. DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:
SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:**

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government runs schemes for the promotion of sports which are gender-neutral and cater to all sections equally including women and marginalized sportspersons and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the Khelo India Scheme there is a dedicated sub-component of 'Sports for women' and if so, the details of the participation till date;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote sports among differently-abled sportspersons and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has set up dedicated training centres and stadiums for the purpose and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to prepare any scheme to encourage participation of women in sports in the country, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(f) the details of funds allocated by the Government in this regard during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
{ SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR }**

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *221 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2023 REGARDING “PROMOTION OF SPORTS” ASKED BY DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV AND SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL, HON’BLE MEMBERS OF LOK SABHA.

(a) ‘Sports’ being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including promotion of gender neutral sports in the country, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory Governments. Central Government only supplements their efforts. However, this Ministry is running various sports promotional schemes across the country which are gender neutral and cater to all sections equally including women and marginalized sportspersons. These schemes include: (i) Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations; (iii) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches; (iv) National Sports Awards; (v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; (vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Sports Welfare Scheme; (vii) National Sports Development Fund; and (viii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India. Details of these schemes are available in the public domain on the websites of this Ministry and the Sports Authority of India.

(b) Yes, Sir. Under the ‘Sports for Women’ sub-component of the Khelo India Schemes special emphasis is laid upon encouraging the participation of women athletes. Under this initiative, various Khelo India Women’s League – are being conducted. Till now, women leagues have been organised in 19 sports disciplines across the country. 479 competitions have been organized for Women athletes with 52,086 participants. This initiative has significantly increased women participation in sports across the nation and has provided ample opportunities to women athletes to compete, learn and grow in all age groups. A portal named ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women through Action) was also launched for Women’s League on 22 August 2023. Further, the ASMITA logo has also been integrated with Khelo India Women’s League with the tagline “Khel se hi pehchan”, thereby giving identity to women athletes through sports. Also, the talented athletes under the Khelo India scheme are selected / identified based on the performance during the Khelo India Games, National Championship, Open Selection Trial conducted by the concerned National Sports Federations and School Games Federation of India. As of now, a total of 1341 women athletes have been identified under the Khelo India scheme in various sports disciplines.

As a special initiative for encouraging women in sports, the Khelo India “Dus ka Dum” Sports competition was also launched on the occasion

of International Women’s Day in March 2023. As a special initiative for encouraging women in sports, the Khelo India “Dus ka Dum” Sports competition was also launched on the occasion of International Women’s Day in March 2023. Over 1500 events were conducted with participation of more than one lakh women athletes in various parts of the country.

(c) and (d) As mentioned in (a) above, the schemes implemented by this Ministry supports all sportspersons, including the differently-abled sportspersons.

All sports infrastructure sanctioned under the Khelo India Scheme of this Ministry are accessible to all including, persons with disabilities and follow the harmonized Guidelines of Accessible Sports Complex and Residential Facilities for Sportspersons with Disabilities conceptualized as per International Standards and issued by this Ministry.

In addition, all stadiums and training centres operated by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under aegis of this Ministry, have been made disabled-friendly and are upgraded regularly to ensure comfort of the differently-abled athletes. SAI’s National Centre for Excellence (NCOE) at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, has been identified as the main centre for holding of sports activities pertaining to differently-abled athletes.

Further, 1st Khelo India Para Games have been held at New Delhi from 10th December to 17th December 2023.

(e) No, Sir. As mentioned in (a) above, all sports promotional schemes run by this Ministry are gender neutral and cater to all sections equally including women sportspersons.

(f) Funds are allocated scheme-wise and not State-wise in this Ministry. Details of funds allocated under the sports development schemes/ programmes of this Ministry during the last three years and current year are given below:

Financial Year	Budget Allocation (in ₹ crore)
2020-21	1313.40
2021-22	1993.00
2022-23	1907.69
2023-24	2462.59
